



Lead Agency (Lead) determines if activity is subject to CEQA: Does Lead have discretionary approval? Will activity cause physical change to environment?

If not a "project" per CEQA or if exemption applies

Activity not subject to further environmental evaluation

Notice of Exemption (can file after approval of activity)

Early consultation with Responsible and Trustee agencies re: possible exemptions from CEQA

Exempt

Not Exempt

Prepare Initial Study to determine significant effects, use to select appropriate environmental document: ND, MND, or EIR?

Significant effect(s) but no mitigations, or can't reduce effects to < significant: Environmental Impact Report

NOTICE OF PREPARATION to SCH and scoping sessions: Lead consults with Responsible and Trustee agencies prior to development of an EIR

No substantial evidence that project or any of its aspects may cause significant effect on the environment >> Negative Declaration

Significant effect(s), but can be modified to avoid or reduce to less than significant: >> Mitigated Negative Declaration

Applicant modifies project so impacts are avoided or mitigated to less than significant >> Mitigated Neg. Dec.

Lead considers input from consultation and scoping sessions, develops draft EIR

NOTICE OF COMPLETION attached to draft EIR, send thru SCH to set state review period; 45 day public notice in newspapers, direct mail, or posting

Public consultation prior to development of Negative Declaration

Lead consults with Responsible and Trustee agencies prior to development of Mitigated Negative Declaration

Lead receives and responds to comments on draft EIR (as revisions or as a separate section in the final EIR)

Lead prepares Negative Declaration and circulates for comment

Draft MND w/ written finding of no significant impact, prepare MITIGATION REPORTING OR MONITORING PROGRAM (MRMP)

Lead responds in writing to commenting agencies within 10 days prior to certification of EIR

NOTICE OF COMPLETION and ND for State Clearinghouse to set state agency review period, and public notice for 30 day review period

NOTICE OF COMPLETION and draft MND to SCH for state agency review, set state review period, public notice (direct mail, newspaper, etc) for 30 days

Lead develops and certifies the final EIR Written findings with brief rationale Develops enforceable MRMP

Lead considers comments, makes any necessary changes, goes on record as adopting ND

Lead considers comments, may revise proposed MND, on record as adopting MND

If necessary, Lead prepares written statement of overriding considerations with rationale to support its actions based on the written record

ND approved by decision-making body, file NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (County Clerk and SCH)

Enforceable MRMP made part of project

Following approval of EIR, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION filed with County Clerk and SCH

Decision-making body approves MND, NOD filed with County Clerk and SCH